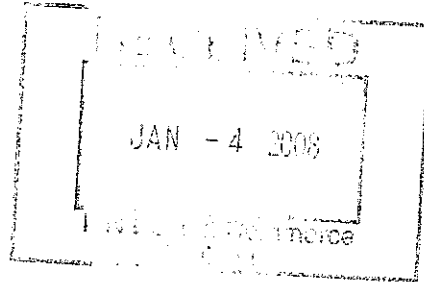


Miranda Hemsworth
6807 West Warren Lane
Remer, MN 56672
12/15/07
Re: The Mesaba Energy Project



Bill Storm
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Bill Storm,

I have to admit I'm not too familiar with the Mesaba Energy Project, but then again, not too many are. I was able to read some information regarding the project and discovered that I don't know exactly where I stand. I find that this project has many pros and cons. This "innovative energy project" could have a huge impact on our community. It would create new jobs for the Iron Range, and also produce many opportunities for those thinking of moving to our community.

This would be the most advanced coal plant in the world. One thing that I questioned was who would be able to work in such a plant? For example, out of the 105 positions in the Wabash Facility in Terre Haute, Indiana, 14% require a minimum of a 4-year college degree. The other 86% of those jobs require specialized training in a specific area, plus extensive previous experience in a power plant, refinery, or similar industrial/military background. These are highly specialized jobs that will pay well, but very few local residents will be qualified for these positions. Would this mean that you would create a training program for our local residents to qualify for these jobs or transfer people in from other areas?

What will be the environmental impact of the Mesaba Energy Project? Is IGCC technology really a "clean" way of using coal to produce energy? When I first thought about this, I thought that using coal would have a better impact on our atmosphere, but after a little research I found that mercury, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, lead, arsenic, volatile organic compounds and particulate matter are all emitted into the atmosphere. I understand that this project would contribute to satisfying the Clear Skies Initiative, which is focused on cutting nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and mercury emissions by 70% over the next 15 years. I actually think that's great.

These are just a few things that stuck out to me. There is so much to think about when deciding whether to go ahead or not with a project this big. I'm sure you've heard arguments for and against this project, but please, really think about what's best for our community and environment. We live in an area of beauty and wonder; I would hate to ruin something we all love so much. With that said, I want to thank you for bringing this opportunity to our community.

Sincerely,

Miranda Hemsworth

Miranda Hemsworth